

jobs and commercialize their products. I wish to recognize the achievements of Ocean Farm Technologies, a small business in Searsport, ME, which has utilized the SBIR program to revolutionize the aquaculture sector through innovative new products.

Today, aquaculture supplies over 45 percent of the world's fish supply, and Ocean Farm Technologies is at the cutting edge of improving the sector's productive future. The company's founder Steve Page has over 30 years of experience as an organic farmer and entrepreneur. Prior to founding the company in 2005, Mr. Page acted as the environmental compliance officer for Atlantic Salmon of Maine, an aquaculture company that farmed salmon in Machiasport.

One of Ocean Farm Technologies' most creative innovations is the self propelled and eco-friendly "AquaPod" containment system that allows for an unprecedented diversity of marine species to be safely and sustainably cultivated at sea. Marine aquaculture has been restricted to calm coastal waters where stationary fish farms can be sheltered from ocean currents and storms. This has limited the variety of cultivatable species and has raised environmental concerns regarding effluent pollution.

Determined to overcome these constraints, Mr. Page obtained a \$250,000 grant from the Maine Technology Institute to design a system capable of surviving rough open ocean conditions. The resultant "AquaPod" is an award winning and patented spherical fish pen made of reinforced polyethylene, steel, and mesh netting. It is submersible, self-propelled, environmentally friendly, and safe from marine predators.

In 2008, the "AquaPod" was successfully tested by researchers from the Massachusetts Institute for Technology off the coast of Culebra, Puerto Rico. It is the first self-propelled open ocean aquaculture pen in the world. Additionally, it is the winner of the Maine Technology Institute's Development Award, and has been deployed in places as divergent as South Korea and Mexico.

Furthermore, Ocean Farm Technologies was the recipient of a Tibbetts Awards from the U.S. Small Business Administration earlier this year. The award is presented to small businesses and individuals judged to exemplify the best in the SBIR program, and promote its mission and goals. It is named for Roland Tibbetts, acknowledged as the father of the SBIR program. This award is a distinguished honor, and I am proud of Ocean Farm Technologies for earning this high recognition.

Ocean Farm Technologies embodies the bright future of aquaculture, which is critical to my home State of Maine, and indeed the true spirit of American entrepreneurship. I wish Steve Page and everyone at Ocean Farm Technologies the very best, and thank them for their ingenuity and considerable accomplishments.●

#### OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD 70TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this month the Oregon Air National Guard is celebrating its 70th anniversary.

"We've got people, we've got a place, and we're ready!" These were the historic words written in a request by Major G. Robert Dodson, an Oregonian assigned to organize and command the first squadron of Oregon National Guard Air Corps.

Ready as Major Dodson was, it hadn't happened quickly or easily. It took several years to get the squadron assembled. General George A. White, Oregon's Adjutant General, requested a squadron as early as August 1939, but didn't receive official authorization to form the squadron from the National Guard Bureau until August 1, 1940. On April 18, 1941, Major Dodson assembled a group of 117 volunteers to form the 123rd Observation Squadron.

Less than 8 months later, these Airmen were the first to conduct maritime surveillance of the continental United States following the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

For the most part, their job was to conduct surveillance on the enemy. However, they did on at least one occasion ignore their orders to "stick to taking pictures" and dropped ordnance instead. It was not without good reason. It seems that the Japanese they targeted had sunk the ship carrying the unit's beer rations. Their improvised attack wasn't appreciated by their commander, but even back then getting between Oregonians and their beer didn't go unpunished.

After the war, the Air National Guard was established as a separate component of the U.S. Air Force. Since being formally designated the Oregon Air National Guard, our State's aviators have played a vital role in Korea, the cold war, and in military operations throughout the world since the tragic events of 9/11. Seventy years and 15 different aircraft models since their inception, the number of citizen-airmen has increased more than twentyfold to 2,000.

Today, our Nation relies on F-15s from the Oregon Air National Guard to perform the air sovereignty mission for the entire Pacific Northwest. Our twin-engine, air superiority fighter jets—Eagles—fly upwards of Mach 2 to intercept any threat along our Nation's border. Additionally, the Oregon Air National Guard trains new Air Force pilots at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls.

They are not only there for our Nation in times of war, but they answer the call of the Governor during natural disasters. When flooding threatened hundreds of lives in Vernonia, OR, in 2007 it was the Oregon Air National Guard's 125th Special Tactics Squadron that was first on the scene. They saved hundreds of people from the rising water.

Today's Oregon Air National Guard units include the 142nd Fighter Wing,

125th Special Tactics Squadron and 123rd Weather Flight in Portland, the 173rd Fighter Wing and 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron in Klamath Falls, Joint Force Headquarter in Salem, and the 116th Air Control Squadron in Warrenton.

As an Oregonian and as their Senator, I could not be more proud of today's Oregon Air National Guard and its rich heritage. It is an honor to serve these heroes; active, retired, and those that have given their lives. I am very appreciative of their 70 years of selfless service and sacrifice. The people of Oregon thank every member of this pillar of freedom.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 910. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from promulgating any regulation concerning, taking action relating to, or taking into consideration the emission of a greenhouse gas to address climate change, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 910. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from promulgating any regulation concerning, taking action relating to, or taking into consideration the emission of a greenhouse gas to address climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 768. A bill to provide for continuing operations of Government in a fiscally responsible manner.

H.R. 1255. An act to prevent a shutdown of the government of the United States, and for other purposes.